IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of all the claims is presented herewith.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended).

A porous silicate granular material, useful ~~especially~~ as aggregate for the production of construction materials ~~such as~~ including lightweight concrete, mortar or heat-insulting plaster and containing glass and a glassy-crystalline component comprising

45 to 85 wt.% SiO_2,

5 to 20 wt.% alkali oxide,

5 to 30 wt.% alkaline earth oxide and

2 to 30 wt.% of other oxides selected from the group consisting of aluminia, iron oxide, and mixtures thereof, ~~such as Al_2O_3 and/or Fe_2O_3~~ whereby the glassy crystalline component accounts for 5 to 75 wt.% of the granular material, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the glassy crystalline component is the sinter reaction product of a mixture of

quartz powder and/or another essentially pure fine-grained SiO_2 carrier,

powdered clay and/or powdered clay mineral,

Portland cement, ~~caustic soda and~~ sodium hydroxide in hydrous solution and an expanding agent as at least one additive.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended).

A method for producing granular material, useful as ~~according to Claim 1,~~ aggregate for the production of construction materials including lightweight concrete, mortar or heat-insulting plaster and containing glass and a glassy-crystalline component comprising

45 to 85 wt.% SiO_2,

5 to 20 wt.% alkali oxide,

5 to 30 wt.% alkaline earth oxide and

2 to 30 wt.% of other oxides selected from the group consisting of aluminia, iron oxide, and mixtures thereof, whereby the glassy crystalline component accounts for 5 to 75 wt.% of the granular material, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein

- a mixture of at least
  powdered glass,
  quartz powder and/or another essentially pure fine-grained SiO_2 carrier,
  powdered clay and/or powdered clay mineral,
  Portland cement, ~~caustic soda,~~
  sodium hydroxide in hydrous solution;
  an expanding agent as at least one additive and
  ~~and if necessary other additives and/or accessory~~
  water ~~agents~~ is prepared,

- the mixture is agglomerated at a temperature of 20°C to 150°C at ~~normal~~ standard pressure of 101325 Pa ~~with the water vapour partial pressure being adjusted, selected or controlled as a function of time-temperature and carbon dioxide being excluded or admitted, whereby the admission of carbon dioxide is controlled by adjusting or selecting the carbon dioxide partial pressure,~~

- the intermediate product is optionally crushed and graded ~~if necessary,~~

- the intermediate product thus obtained is heated at ~~normal~~ standard pressure of 101325 Pa ~~with the carbon dioxide partial pressure and/or the water vapour partial pressure being adjusted, selected or controlled as a function of time-temperature,~~ to a temperature of 700° C to 1250°C and sintered and expanded at this temperature.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended).

The method according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein after agglomeration the mixture is put into intermediate storage and then dried and/or heat treated.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended).

The method according to Claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the mixing, agglomeration, intermediate storage, drying and/or heat treatment takes place with carbon dioxide being ~~eliminated or~~ admitted~~, whereby the admission of carbon dioxide is controlled by adjusting or selecting the carbon dioxide partial pressure.~~

Claim 5. (Cancelled).

Claim 6. (Currently Amended).

The method according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein powdered glass, quartz powder and/or another essentially pure fine-grained SiO_2 carrier having a grain size of < 40µm is used.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended).

The method according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein during preparation of the mixture silicate, oxide, hydroxide, carbonate and/or sulphate materials are added as additives ~~and/or accessory agents.~~

Claim 8. (Currently Amended).

The method according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein during preparation of the mixture water glass solutions, filter dust, ground slag, powdered ceramic, quicklime, hydrated lime, powdered limestone, gypsum, anhydride, powdered corundum, aluminium hydrate and/or oxides, hydroxides, carbonates and sulphates of alkalis and alkaline earths are added.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended).

The method according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a mass fraction of the granular material originating from additives and/or accessory agents as end product is a maximum of 20 wt.%.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended).

The method according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein carbon and/or carbon carriers ~~such as~~ including soot, powdered graphite, powdered coal, fine-grained silicon carbide and carbohydrate are used as swelling agents.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended).

The method according to Claim 2,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein the mixture is adjusted as a doughy pasty mass and then agglomerated.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended).

The method according to Claim 2,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein the mixture, especially in the form of a doughy pasty mass is subjected to heat treatment.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended).

The method according to Claim 12,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein the heat treatment is provided by Joule heat via an ac power supply.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended).

The method according to Claim 12,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein the heat treatment takes place by supplying microwaves.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended).

The method according to Claim 2,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein the agglomeration is accomplished by a granulation process or takes place

by pressing.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended).

The method according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the sintering and expanding takes place in a rotary kiln with the addition of a parting compound.

Claim 17. (Cancelled).